STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The object of the Bill is to discourage the taking or giving of dowries. This practice has now assumed such large proportion that the parents are finding it difficult to get their daughters married and girls both educated and uneducated are averse to ideas of marriage on account of the trouble their parents are put to in finding the money for the payment of dowry.

The object of this Bill is however limited to ensuring that the dowry when given should be solely for the benefit of the bride.

It is intended by this Bill to constitute the holder of the dowry, who is generally either the bridegroom or his parents, a trustee of the dowry for the benefit of the woman so that she can always enforce her right at any moment. This Bill also intends to make her economically independent.

G. DURGABAI.

BILL No. 27 OF 1951.

A Bill to provide for restraining the taking or giving of dowry in connection with marriages and for matters incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament as follows :—

1. *Short title, extent, commencement and application.*—(1) This Act may be called the Dowry Restraint Act, 19 .

(2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

(4) It shall apply in the first instance to Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains, but the Central Government may, by notification, direct that it shall apply to members of any other community also.

2. *Definitions.*—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "dowry" means any property transferred or agreed to be transferred as a part of the contract of any betrothal or marriage by one party to the betrothal or marriage or the father, mother or guardian of that party to the other party to the marriage or to the father, mother or guardian of the other party, but does not include voluntary marriage gifts such as ornaments to a bride and dresses to a bridegroom, the value of which do not exceed one thousand rupees.

(b) "marriage" means a marriage between any two persons to whom this Act applies.

3. *Penalty for taking dowry.*—A person who takes dowry shall on conviction be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to the amount or value of the dowry taken or with both.

4. *Penalty for giving dowry or abetment thereof.*—A person who gives dowry or abets the giving of dowry shall on conviction be punishable with

simple imprisonment which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

5. *Penalty for dowry after solemnisation of marriage.*—A person who at any time within three years after the solemnisation of a marriage to which this Act applies demands either directly or indirectly from the parents or any other person who was the guardian of the woman before her marriage any payment which is in the nature of a dowry, shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 3 of this Act and shall be punishable accordingly.

6. *Cognizance of offence.*—No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except on complaint made in this behalf, provided that every such complaint shall be accompanied by a deposit of fifty rupees as security against false, vexatious or frivolous proceedings.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The object of the Bill is to punish the taking or giving of dowries. The practice of accepting money from the parents or guardians of the bride or the bridegroom by either party has done tremendous harm to the society. Parents sometimes incur heavy debts in paying this dowry. This Bill is, therefore, designed to do away with the evil practice of dowry.

JAYASHRI RAIJI.

BILL NO. 28 OF 1951

A Bill further to amend the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946.

BE it enacted by Parliament as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Amendment Act, 19

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of section 7, Act XXIV of 1946.*—In sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 (hereinafter referred to as the said Act) the following shall be added at the end, namely:—

"unless for reasons to be recorded the court is of opinion that it is not necessary to direct forfeiture in respect of the whole, or as the case may be any part of the property"

3. *Substitution of new section for section 9, Act XXIV of 1946.*—For section 9 of the said Act, the following section shall be substituted namely:—

"9. *Relating to Corporations.*—(1) It shall be the duty of every company and other body corporate to nominate any of its directors, managers or other officers of the company or other body corporate to be responsible for the due compliance of the orders made under section 3.